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American Fern Society

A short time before her death, Mrs. Judith H. Coffin, of Newburyport, Mass., donated to the American Fern Society, in memory of old friends of the Linnean Fern Chapter, Vols. 13 to 18 (from 1905 to 1910) of the *Fern Bulletin* and Vols. 1 to 7 (from 1911 to 1917) of the AMERICAN FERN JOURNAL. These magazines are given to the Fern Society either to keep or to sell, the proceeds to be added to the funds of the Society, or used in any way desirable. The American Fern Society is indeed very grateful for this kind and generous gift.

Mrs. Blanche Turner White, a member of the Society since 1916, died January 17, 1919—one of the many victims of last winter's epidemic of influenza. Mrs. White was descended from some of the early French settlers of St. Louis: one may imagine that their friendship with the wilderness had, in some degree, come down to her. She was a naturalist by nature—one who, it seemed, "as by instinct knew where, in far fields, the heather grew"—and she possessed the charming enthusiasm of her kind. Much of her brief life of thirty years was spent in the country about Arcadia, Missouri, where her desire to know about the rocks, plants and birds could be, and was abundantly, gratified. Eager to learn and to help others, she was much sought after. A member of several natural history societies, she was most actively connected with the work of the St. Louis Bird Club, serving that organization not only as officer, teacher and leader of excursions (especially of children), but in certain larger practical aspects of its work which touched on the planning of parks and residence districts and the teaching of the value of out-door life. She herself learned and put into her own life the best nature has to give.

Mrs. Judith Hopkins Coffin died at Newburyport, Massachusetts, July 22, 1919. She was born in November, 1831. Mrs. Coffin became a member of the Linnaean Fern Chapter early in 1896 and was much interested in the American Fern Society to the last of her life. She not long ago donated to the Society several volumes of the Fern Bulletin and of the American Fern Journal. She had collected and mounted specimens of the ferns and fern allies of Essex County, Massachusetts, and to the end of her life retained her mental faculties and interest in everything. She was a woman of rare graces of character and much could be said of the sweet simplicity of her life, of her kindness and thoughtfulness for others, her courage and high ideals.

New Members—

Swain, Rev. James Ramsay, 4223 Osage Ave., Philadelphia, Pa.
Trudell, Harry W., 2030 East Madison St., Philadelphia, Pa.

Change of Address—

Heatley, Miss Margaret, University of South Africa, P. O. Box 1176, Johannesburg, South Africa.

The JOURNAL is indebted to the generosity of Professor L. S. Hopkins for Plate 4 in this number and also for the photograph from which Plate 5 was made.

By one of those typographical errors which form the subject of every editor's nightmares, the asterisk which should have gone with the name of Miss Blanche Turner in the additions and corrections to the list of members in the last number, was transferred to that of Miss Sarah F. Sanborn. The editor in charge of the proof-reading can only tender Miss Sanborn his most contrite apologies and wish her long life and happiness.—C. A. W.

With the issue of this number, the JOURNAL's copy-drawer is again nearly empty. We trust the members will continue to be on the look-out for matter of interest: the JOURNAL cannot be issued until we have the wherewithal to fill it.

The editors have received from one of our new members a query as to general works on ferns. He mentions Lyell's *Geographical Handbook of the Ferns*, and asks if there is anything better. We have answered this question by letter according to our ability, but we should like the help of the members in answering it and perhaps future questions of the kind more fully. We wish everyone who can would write to the JOURNAL (if possible, in time for the next number) telling what fern books each has found most interesting and helpful—not merely the general works directly asked about, but fern books of any character. If enough members contribute to it, the resultant list will have considerable value.